



TOWN OF

KENSINGTON

AUGUST 2002
JOURNAL

August 12th, 7:00 p.m. Work Session Agenda

Dr. Robert Willett, PhD will discuss strategic planning for the
Town provided by University of Maryland students

Meeting Schedule

August 12, 7:00 p.m. Work Session
September 9, 7:00 p.m. Work Session
September 30, 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting

**PLEASE STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS IN ALL CROSSWALKS.
THERE IS A \$500 FINE.**

IMPORTANT!

Please find and complete the yellow insert in this copy of the Journal as soon as possible. The information you provide will be used to produce a new Town Telephone Directory, for use by residents of the Town.

Contact us at 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895
Phone: 301-949-2424; Fax: 301-949-4925;
E-mail: mayor.council@tok.org; Web Site: www.tok.org

Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market opens at 8:00 a.m. every Saturday at the Kensington Train Station.

Please, NO early shoppers.

Upcoming Events

August 25th

Town Picnic at Kensington Cabin Park 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

September 2nd

35th Annual Kensington Labor Day Parade and Festival at 10:00 a.m.

Kensington Artisan Fair 11:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Labor Day Weekend

Paint the Town Art Show

September 21st

9th Annual Kensington 8k Race

Reminder

The Town Office will be closed on Monday, September 2nd.

Trash pick-up will be on Tuesday September 3rd.

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in serving on the Tree Lighting Committee or need more information about the Committee contact Tracey Furman at (301) 933-6282.

If you are interested in serving on the Revitalization Steering Committee contact the Mayor for more information.

Opening on Ethics Commission

The Town's 3-member Ethics Commission, which is appointed by the Mayor with the confirmation of the Town Council, currently has an opening. If you are interested in applying for the position or would like more information, please call the Town Office at 301-949-2424.

Seeking Volunteers for Upcoming Kensington Events

The Town is seeking enthusiastic volunteers for the Kensington Labor Day Parade and the Kensington 8K Race. If you are interested in helping with either, please call Jenny Smith at 301-946-3804 as soon as possible. Thanks so much!

For Your Information

Police Non-Emergency Phone Number

301-279-8000

If you see or hear any inappropriate activities in or around Town but aren't sure if they are illegal or warrant a call to 911, please call the non-emergency number to report the activity. These reports help the police to curtail undesirable activities and often yield valuable information in stopping or solving crimes.

Town Charter

The Town Charter is now available on the website.

Section 21-1122 of the Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland Noise Limitations on Use of Sound Amplification Systems

A driver of a vehicle may not operate or permit the operation of a sound amplification system from the vehicle that can be heard outside the vehicle from 50 feet or more. Any person convicted of this misdemeanor is subject to a fine of no more than \$500.00

Hazardous Waste Collection Information

Collection Date:

August 4th 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Shady Grove Solid Waste Transfer Station

For a complete list of acceptable materials and for collection dates for the remainder of 2002 call (240) 777-6400 or access their website www.MCRecycles.org

GROWS Candidate Forum

GROWS, the Grass Roots Organization for the Well-being of Seniors, is conducting a Candidates Forum for the candidates for the Montgomery County Council on Wednesday September 4 from 1:15 to 3:30 p.m., at Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton. For more information, please contact GROWS at 301-765-3325.

Building Permits

Install fence at 3915 Washington Street
Build addition at 3820 Washington Street
Relocate shed at 3709 Dupont Avenue
Renovate, remove side room at 10217 Summit Avenue
Raise roof at 10002 Frederick Avenue
Install fence at 10101 Hadley Place
Install fence at 3423 Wake Drive

e-Announcements

If you would like to receive brief e-mail updates regarding Town business please sign up for e-Announcements on the home page of the Town's website (www.tok.org)

Message from the Mayor's Desk

Over the past four years you have seen many improvements throughout Town. Some, such as cost savings in the daily operations of the Town are not visible but we continue to streamline where possible.

This year will be another year of moving forward to improve our Town. I will be focusing attention on the following areas this year:

- Phase III Howard Avenue revitalization
- Completion of Metropolitan Avenue Streetscape
- Continuing to communicate with Mr. Gould to advise him of improvements and reuse possibilities the Town may support on his former concrete plant site on Metropolitan Avenue.
- Pedestrian/Bike tunnel under the railroad tracks at the train station.
- Traffic, safety and quality of life issues along the Connecticut Avenue corridor.
- Continue progress on the Town Hall/Community Center restoration. We have \$275,000 in our 2002-2003 budget to use for this purpose.

In June I attended the Maryland Municipal League Convention, as usual it was a great success. We had workshops of interest to all who attended. This year we had the largest number of municipal officials in attendance. I was installed by Governor Parris Glendening as the new President and took office June 25. This organization is a vital part of education and support to municipal government. I look forward to the opportunity this position will provide me to be, an Ambassador, not only to the league but to our Town as I travel throughout the State of Maryland over the next year.

I take this opportunity to thank the Judges of Election, Spencer Harrill, Eleanor Condliffe and Chris Tucker. These citizens have been volunteering for many years to make our elections run smoothly and bring us results as quickly as possible. They do a great job. A special thank you to the following citizens who also volunteered their time for the election: Chris Bruch, Tim Mullen, and Robin Watson.

Thank you to Marlene Cohn for once again moderating our Meet the Candidate Forum at the May meeting. She did a splendid job as always even with a request for changing the format at the last minute.

As always our annual Fourth of July Bike Parade was bigger and better than ever. Thanks to Margaret Fitzpatrick and her team of volunteers. You did a great job! We all had fun and look forward to next year.

I extend a warm welcome to John Ceschini our new Kensington Parkwood Elementary School principal and congratulate Judith Lewis our former principal who has been promoted to the central office. Best wishes to both of them from our Town.

A reminder if you have questions, concerns or suggestions you wish to share feel free to call or visit me at the Town office. I appreciate your input.

Council Member Carr's Report

I attended the Maryland Municipal League conference in Ocean City. This is a very valuable conference where local officials from across the state gather annually. As a new elected official, I enjoyed learning about the many resources available to help us to be more effective in serving you.

I met with the county's cable administrator and drafted a letter to request free broadband internet access for the Armory building which is available from Comcast. This will help our Town office to be more efficient as we are currently on a slow dialup internet service.

I drafted a letter requesting credit union membership for Town employees and elected officials at Lafayette Federal Credit Union.

I attended a Chevy Chase View town meeting to discuss shared sidewalk and safety issues on Connecticut Avenue.

TOWN TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

My role on the Council will be to focus on traffic and safety issues and I will be chairing the Town Traffic Committee. I hope to have the next meeting of the Traffic Committee sometime in mid-September after most people have returned from vacation. If you have a suggestion or are interested in serving on the committee, please contact the town office or e-mail me at acarr@aol.com. Remember that traffic and safety includes pedestrian and bicycle issues as well as automobile issues.

Council Member Cowan's Report

Kensington is a small but vibrant town with a population of under 2,000 living in about 650 households. Part of what gives us a bigger feel than our size is the significant number of varied and different land uses that make up our community. We have: several commercial areas, a host of light industrial uses, single family homes, gas stations (count them!), major roads, minor alleys, churches, playgrounds, a railroad, an Historic District, a children's library, a nursing home, apartment buildings, vacant lots, personal services businesses, auto body shops, Antique Row, county offices, commercial buildings, a

hardware store, a lumber yard, medical clinics, farmer's markets and, of course, Connecticut Avenue.

This diverse land use is the proximate cause of almost every issue we face most of which are well beyond the concerns of the typical small town. Chevy Chase View and Garrett Park are nearby and are about the same size as Kensington but lack this panoply of commercial and industrial activity and thus have many fewer issues.

The public questions occasioned by so many different demands have become increasingly complex and costly over the past two decades. In many instances we are simply too small and lack the resources and/or the authority to effectively face these challenges. We are the commercial center for an economic zone significantly larger than the town but can only call on resources from our own citizens to deal with the impacts caused by these wider influences. Even when resources are available we are often captive to decisions of the county and state where most of the regulatory authority rests.

The current role of the Mayor and Council reflect a simpler economic and social environment. The mayor's job was intended to be part-time whereas our current mayor serves more than full time. Council members were to debate issues, hear from the public, provide oversight of the executive and act on legislation. Current councils also assume executive functions in the broad areas of traffic and safety, public works, parks and recreation and finance. The mayor and council have assumed these functions of necessity, whether or not prepared to do so by merit of experience, education or inclination. To date this has worked reasonably well but what will Kensington face if the next mayor "only" works part time and the members of council are not inclined or qualified to take on increasingly complex executive functions?

We need to begin to address this problem before we face it. We need to professionalize our town government. This may entail a charter change to permit a town manager form of government or the more informal town administrator model. Perhaps we simply need to make greater use of (and pay for) professional technical advisors on a regular basis.

The complexity of managing Kensington will not diminish – rather it will intensify over the next decade. We have to be prepared to meet these challenges in a professional manner. This will require that we supplement the commitment and vision of elected – basically volunteer – leaders with the experience and skill of educated government specialists.

Council Member Scharman's Report

I attended the Maryland Municipal League Annual Convention in Ocean City in June. The convention was very useful to me and I've summarized the seminars I attended.

- Town website development, including examples of useful web ideas and components.

- Aggregate purchasing opportunities presentation through U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, enabling governments to combine their purchasing power to purchase more economically.
- Emergency Preparedness seminar covering the continuing development of readiness of governments as well as the need to develop a more self-sufficient public.
- Municipal Budgeting seminar discussed finance and budget requirements set forth by the State, additional budget requirements typically included in town charters, different types of budget methods towns use, circumstances requiring budget amendments, and what projects can and cannot be constructed with municipal funds.
- "Grants Writing" seminar which included discussions of new programs offered by the State, streamlined applications for the Community Legacy Program, and methods to use in choosing projects and preparing applications to achieve the greatest chance of success.
- A seminar about educating and involving citizens in municipal government provided case studies of towns smaller than Kensington as well as some of the larger cities in the State, showing how they had implemented programs and projects educating citizens about municipal government, seeking citizen input, and involving people with the issues faced by the government.
- "Employment Issues" discussed the interview and application process for hiring town employees and development of an employment manual.
- A seminar on economic development included a case study highlighting how to make a commercial development project compatible with the surrounding community.

Councilmember Pfautz and I participated in a discussion with some residents to discuss citizen participation and volunteer needs in the Town, including serving on committees and groups, planning Town events, and working collaboratively on other Town projects.

The quarterly Tree Board Meeting was held on July 9. The minutes are contained in this Journal. The members of the Tree Board continue to work on the components needed to develop a Tree Plan for the Town, review the tree proposal for Metropolitan Avenue, and review landscape issues. Another meeting will be held in early August to discuss tree maintenance, inventory, and proposed plantings. Tree Board members have also started to look at future landscaping ideas for St. Paul Park which will be considered when Phase II improvements are made to the park.

I have had many meetings and discussions with the Mayor, residents, and engineers in order to plan for the Phase II work at St. Paul Park. I met with citizens at the park on July 16 to discuss the preliminary plans for Phase II renovations. I will schedule another meeting to obtain citizen input on the grant items and other needs at St. Paul Park. The Program Open Space grant award includes resurfacing of the basketball court, replacement of the walking path, addition of a water fountain, replacement of the backstop and parking strip barrier, paving of the parking strip, and improvement of the drainage in the southeast area of the park.

I attended a meeting with Steve Luckaczer of the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) to discuss skateboarding activities at HOC. In addition to skateboarding, a number of HOC's ongoing efforts in improving and maintaining the recreational space at that site were discussed. I have also had numerous communications with HOC over the last several months; although this outdoor space is managed by HOC, it is an important recreational area for Town residents and the surrounding area and I believe different age groups can enjoy this facility without negatively impacting the surrounding residential community.

Minutes of the Quarterly Tree Board Meeting

July 9, 2002

Committee members present: John Anderson, Anne Elsbree, Louise Hamilton, Barbara Scharman

General landscaping in the parks and rights-of-way was discussed with regard to citizen interest and participation. A resident attended to express citizen interest in donating and implementing a landscape plan for a street triangle on the south side of Town. The new Adopt-a-park or greenspace program where one or two families will gather to help clean and maintain each park and certain greenspaces was discussed. The tree plan for the Metropolitan Avenue Revitalization Project was discussed, as a follow-up to the Town meeting where SHA (State Highway Administration) presented their streetscape plans. The list of additional plantings provided by SHA subsequent to that meeting was discussed and it was agreed that interested committee members and residents will suggest additions or changes to the SHA tree plan. Another meeting of the Board is scheduled for early August to discuss triangle landscaping and Metropolitan Avenue tree plans.

Louise Hamilton provided a summary of recent and anticipated take-downs of trees. The recent Washington Post article discussing street tree problems in the Washington, D.C. area was discussed. A Board member provided a list of preferred trees for planting in public spaces and asked for the Board to review and provide comment. The committee discussed the possibility of growing very young trees on Town property and transplanting these when they become mature enough. Barbara Scharman provided copies of an application from the State to apply for grant funds to plant trees. It was agreed that the Town will submit the fall planting plan to the State in an attempt to secure matching funds from this program.

The need to develop a Town tree plan was discussed. The Town tree inventory, the first component of tree plan development, is expected to be conducted in July. As the inventory is completed, tree lists are refined, and guidelines are established for various conditions, each street can be assessed and a plan should emerge.

The following useful tree websites were distributed at Earth/Arbor Day:
www.arborday.org, www.americanforests.org, and www.nationaltreetrust.org.

Special Meeting of Mayor & Council

June 17, 2002, 7:30 p.m.

The meeting commenced at 7:30 p.m., Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Cowan, Pfautz and Scharman, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present and the following issues were addressed:

Comments and revisions made by the Town attorney to the personnel handbook were discussed. The personnel handbook will be revised to incorporate the discussed revisions.

Council Actions

Council Member Pfautz moved to adopt resolution 2002-09 to restate the Town of Kensington, Maryland Defined Benefit Plan and Trust to comply with certain required changes in retirement plan law and to execute the appropriate joinder agreement to adopt the Oxford Associates of Maryland, Inc. Prototype Defined Benefit Plan and Trust as the Town's amendment and restatement of the Plan. It was seconded by Council Member Scharman and passed unanimously.

Work Session of Mayor & Council

July 1, 2002

The work session commenced at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz and Scharman, Public Works Director Joel, Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present and the following issues were addressed:

A Moment of Silence was observed for Lucille Chenault a long time resident who recently passed away.

The Mayor swore in Al Carr and Leanne Pfautz as Council Members.

The Council set responsibilities for the coming year as follows: Al Carr, Traffic and Safety; Glenn Cowan, Infrastructure; Leanne Pfautz, Budget and Finance; Barbara Scharman, Parks and Trees; and Leanne Pfautz as Mayor Pro Tem.

Wes Guckert, President of The Traffic Group, gave a presentation on the process and key components of conducting a comprehensive traffic study for the Town of Kensington which included time frame, funding, and cost.

The project list was reviewed and updated. KAT contract was completed and removed from project list. The following were added to the project list: GASB, charter review, retaining walls on Farragut Avenue, Connecticut Avenue sidewalk from Washington to Saul and website redesign.

Public Works Director Joel updated the Mayor and Council on the street paving schedule. The following changes were made in the paving/curb and gutter schedule: curb/gutter on Lexington Street 200 feet south of University Blvd was deleted from schedule as it is outside the Town (however, the Council asked Public Works Director Joel to follow-up with the County on paving that portion of the street); Kent Street curb/gutter and paving was put on hold to next year due to a new subdivision in that area; curb/gutter on Frederick Avenue from Kent Street to Frederick Place will be added; and paving Wake Drive will be considered if enough funds are available.

Public Work Director Joel presented information on outsourcing trash. This will be discussed further at the next work session and at a Town Meeting.

Council Member Scharman reviewed the preliminary plans for St. Paul Park Phase II renovations which were part of the Program Open Space grant award. She informed residents that an engineer would be hired to prepare construction plans/bid specifications and that we would continue to seek citizen input throughout the process.

The Council concurred to move forward with an engineering study for a sidewalk to Kensington Cabin Park from Washington Street on the Park side of Kensington Parkway.

The code enforcement action list was reviewed.

Monthly correspondence was reviewed.

The Council discussed website redesign and will discuss it further at the next work session.

The Mayor and Council discussed and supported the following proposals by Jenny Smith: Creation of: an Adopt-a-Park Program, a Volunteer Coordinator Position to help the Mayor and Council identify volunteers for Town activity committees, a Committees Notebook to be kept at Town Hall to include summaries and minutes of Town committee meetings, and a flyer for either the September or October Town Journal listing all Town committees (this list will also be posted on the Town website).

The Mayor informed the Council that a resident is concerned with children's safety on Calvert Street between Kensington Parkway and Washington Street and that the resident has been given the speed bump request procedures. The Council will look at this area and discuss further.

The Mayor informed residents that there is an opening on the Ethics Commission since John Lossing withdrew his name from the Commission.

The Mayor informed the Council that, instead, John Lossing will serve on the Charter Review Committee in place of Al Carr which will avoid having two Council Members on a three-person committee.

Council Member Scharman announced that she is continuing to follow up on an emergency preparedness program and looking into a neighborhood watch program.

The Mayor and Council concurred to have the Town sign in front of Town Hall read:
“Kensington Incorporated 1894,
Town Hall.”

The Mayor thanked Jenny Smith for providing refreshments before the meeting.

Council Actions

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve the minutes of the May 28 Town Meeting and the June 4, 2002 Work Session as circulated. It was seconded by Council Member Cowan and passed unanimously.

Council Member Cowan moved to approve the minutes of June 17 Special Meeting as presented. It was seconded by Council Member Scharman and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

The Town of Kensington expresses its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Helen Bachschmid and Lucille Chenault, long time residents, who recently passed away.

Make Sure You're Included in the Next Kensington Town Directory!!

It's time to update our Town of Kensington Directory. Our old directory was printed three years ago and is now sadly out of date. We are asking your cooperation in helping us compile the information necessary for an updated edition. This new directory is a joint effort of the Kensington Land Trust and the Kensington Historical Society, and will be produced in cooperation with the Town of Kensington.

Please provide us with the information indicated on the form below. If you prefer not to be included in the directory, please let us know. If you prefer not to list your phone number, this information is optional. However, many people who have unlisted numbers provide their numbers for this community-oriented directory – it is for use by neighbors, for the convenience of the community. We are also asking for email addresses. Again this information is optional, but increasingly useful. Copies of this directory go only to residents of the town and will be distributed by the town crew to your door.

Please provide the names of each resident (i.e. anyone 18 or older) at your address in the form you would like to see in the directory. If residents have different surnames, there will be an entry under each name. ***Please print legibly.***

Name: _____
(Last Name) (First Name)

Additional Name: _____

Additional Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone Number (optional): _____

Email Address (optional): _____
(Please print ***exactly*** as it must be input – only one per household, please)

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Check here if your listing from the most recent (1999) town directory has not changed.

Please return this form by August 12. We need a timely response in order to produce an up-to-date directory by this fall. Mail it to the address indicated on the back of this form, or drop it off at the Town Office.